Miscellanea.

Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital.—This edifice was opened last week for patients. It is built of red brick, with stone mullions, and is in the Elizabethan style of architecture. It has a frontage of 350 feet, the central projecting front taking up 50 feet. The brick was made on the ground. There are two stories, and a basement, with an attic in the centre front, and a small tower in the centre of the roof, for smoke and ventilation. Each corridor is lighted with eight windows, along a passage 114 feet long. There are ranges of apartments furnished for different classes of patients, and a day-room and dining-room, on the ground floor, supplied with numerous articles of comfort and amusement. Along all the passages ventilation is secured by iron grids in the skirting-boards. The upper story chiefly consists of dormitories, with beds of polished birchwood. There are altogether 252 rooms, exclusive of cellars and store-rooms. The building is lighted with gas from a work about a quarter of a mile distant, with a gasometer for 8,500 cubic feet of gas, or four days' supply. The heating apparatus is a series of pipes for hot air from the engine-house. Water is supplied from a well of 60 feet in depth, by aid of a small engine, capable of lifting 4,000 gallons a-day. There are also a number of cisterns in the roof with capacity for 70,000 gallons of rain-water for distribution to the washhouse, &c., and in case of fire. There are baths and lavatories with ready supplies of hot, tepid, and cold water. The kitchen, under the chapel, is fitted up with approved apparatus. There is to be an organ gallery in the chapel. The roof is groined. The area of the site is 52 statute acres with pleasure and airing grounds, bowling-green, and kitchen garden. The avenue and grounds contain 18,000 trees and shrubs. There is accommodation in all for 100 patients, male and female, in separated departments.

Hoxton Ragged Schools.—On the 11th inst. the foundation-stone of this establishment was laid by Lord Ashley, who addressed a large assemblage of spectators on the advantages of such institutions. The architect, on whose designs the building is to be constructed, is Mr. John Tarring, and Mr. Silas Honeywill is the builder to whom it is intrusted. The structure is to be plain but spacious, and in the Tudor style; the material brick, with stone dressings. Its extreme height will be 30 feet, depth 70 feet, width 20 feet, giving school-room for the accommodation of 400 children, and private rooms for the master and mistress. The interior has an open roof of stained wood, and the building is to be completed by February 1, 1850.

Westminster Improvements — Compensation Case.—Some weeks since you raised the curiosity, as well as the surprise of your readers, by an account of an award made by Mr. Shaw, in the matter of the Westminster Improvement Commissioners and the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John's, Westminster, when you stated that 21,000*l.* had been awarded for the workhouse upon an offer of 10,000*l.*, and you named very correctly high reputations in the profession in array on the conflicting side. I believe every member of our profession must feel a regret when such differences occur among authorities, because they tend to throw an uncertainty on the issue of inquiries, for which the public believe we have at least proximately agreed and conventional formulæ. I was therefore tempted to overcome my reluctance to figure in public correspondence, and to allay by explanation whatever of misconception may have been caused by the paragraph; but apprehending, what has since resulted, that a rule *nisi* would be granted to set aside this award, and that your readers would gain more by a report of the arguments on the case in court, than I should be likely to supply by *ex-parte* statement, I determined to await the issue of an application to the court, which, having now been successfully made, will leave you the opportunity of informing your readers on the subject, when I am sure all parties engaged will maintain the reputation they have enjoyed; and my friend Mr. Hunt will show good cause why he asked me nearly double what I considered his clients were entitled to receive.

Henry Robert Abraham.

Projected Works.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 20th January, 1850, for taking down and rebuilding the Stockwell bridge at Glasgow; by 8th January, for the erection of the Subscription Baths and other works at Wolverhampton; by 24th December, for masons', carpenters', joiners', plumbers', slaters', plasterers', and painters' works, for Leeds-terrace, Low Harrogate; by 17th December, for certain alterations and repairs at Manor-house, Bishopstoke, Hants; and by 18th, for building sewers in Green Dragon-court, Cloyster-court, Jackson's-court, Canterbury-court, and other places in the City of London.

Newspaper Folders.—A gentleman once resident in Liverpool, says the *Albion*, has perfected plans for a machine precisely similar in its aim to one recently announced in a Brussels journal, but superior in practical value. We have had the pleasure of inspecting the draughtsman's sketches, and we are assured that consultation with an eminent mechanician has evoked a highly favourable opinion in regard to the novelty and practicability of the design. The invention, it is anticipated, will fold at least 3,000 copies per hour,—a speed much higher than that of the continental machine, and much more considerable than that of the majority of presses employed in provincial newspaper offices; and, whilst the motive power necessary is comparatively light and easy of appliance, the labour required whilst the machine is in action is trifling in the extreme. The cost,—an essential point,—is said to be comparatively small.

The Iron Trade.—On Wednesday week a numerous assemblage of engineers, moulders, millwrights, smiths, and other mechanics, met at Blackburn, to discuss "matters of the greatest importance to the trade generally." A deputation consisting of Mr. Brandon, of London, Mr. J. Rawlinson, of Manchester, and Mr. Newton, of London, urged the meeting to prevent, by co-operation, the great reduction of wages which was expected to take place. Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"That the men out of employment, caused by a reduction of wages at the works at the South-Western Railway, be supported, and that a Committee be formed for that purpose."—"That the meeting appoint a Committee to form a Central Committee, for the purpose of co-operating with similar societies in other towns."

Architectural Association.—We are glad to see that subjects of a practical nature are occupying the attention of this association, the last paper read being on the supply and discharge of water to buildings, by Mr. Calvert Vaux. The artesian and aqueduct principles, and the advantages of the plan of constant supply at high pressure, were referred to, but the details of arrangement in which the responsibility of the architect is more especially involved, were made the chief points for consideration, and the merits of various plans and inventions, amongst others those of Messrs. Bunnett and Corpe, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Jennings, were discussed. The paper concluded with a few sensible remarks on the feasibility of a central and permanent exposition of inventions connected with practical architecture.

A Surveyor by Tender. Going! Gone!—According to advertisement in The Builder of the 1st instant, the office of surveyor of highways for Ealing was *tendered for*, on the 4th, by the following candidates, and at the annexed salaries.

	Per Annum.
Godson	£200
Whiteside	120
Lack	100
Pocklington	80
Garner	80
Hancock	58
Bouten	52
Farquharson (accepted)	52
Jones	50
Hunt	50
Withers	50
Sanders	45
Taylor	45
Gibson	45
Rodge	40
Wright	40
Skey	40
Dorchester	40
Paxton	35

—H.

Institution of Civil Engineers.—At a meeting on Tuesday, December 11th, Mr. Joshua Field, president, in the chair, a paper was read, "On the facilities for a Ship Canal Communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, through the Isthmus of Panama," by Lieut.-Colonel Lloyd. The chief point insisted on by the author was the great field opened in the Isthmus for emigration, for the surplus population of this country. He contended, that it was far preferable to the Canadas, where the poor, but industrious and honest mechanic, or labourer, on arriving, found that the rich land he had heard of could only be reached by a weary journey and after such hardships, in a severe climate, as his limited means and broken strength rendered impossible for him to bear.

Cheltenham Church Competition.—Forty-seven designs were submitted in competition for the new church at Cheltenham, from which the committee selected three,—those of Mr. Ordish, Mr. Raffles Brown, and Messrs. Coe and Goodwin. The decision has ultimately been in favour of Mr. Ordish's design, the tender of a builder having been produced within the stipulated sum. The design is Middle Pointed, with chancel and chancel aisle, nave, north and south aisles and north and south transepts, south porch, and sacristy. North of chancel there is a tower with plain broach spire west of nave. The roofs are of high pitch, and there is a clerestory of plain character. It is to be regretted that the transepts contain galleries,—an almost necessary evil under the circumstances.

Chinese Builders in California.—The Chinese have emigrated to San Francisco in large numbers, and it is remarked that from early morn until late in the evening, these industrious men are engaged in their occupation of house builders, and the quietness and order, cheerfulness, and temperance of their habits, is noticed by every one. The buildings brought from China are generally 20 feet square, one story in height, and 12 feet from the floor to the ceiling, and the price of them, including the erection, is 1,500 dollars. They are brought from Hong-Kong.

To Destroy Crickets.—In reply to the inquiry "how to destroy crickets?" mix together about two-thirds of dry pounded loaf sugar with one-third of arsenic, and put it in those places infested with them. I have never known this remedy to fail.—J. C.

London Sewage.—The tunnel sewer now in course of formation across Ludgate-hill, from Ave Maria-lane to Creed-lane, is for the purpose of bringing down sewage matter to the works now constructing at Puddle Dock, where it will be treated by the method patented by Mr. Higgs.

The Bradford Workhouse Plans.—Sixteen competitors having lodged their plans, the guardians proceeded on Tuesday week to consider them, when seven or eight were rejected, either from the estimates being beyond the sum limited, namely, 6,000*l.*, or for other reasons. On the following day the whole were reduced to three, which, says the local *Observer*, were to be submitted to the guardians on the Friday,—the advice of two practical men, namely, Mr. B. Illingworth and Mr. Mawson, being at same time called for.

Metropolitan Sewers Commission.—A court was ordered to be held on the 7th instant, but a quorum could not be obtained. Some little business, however, was afterwards done. The new commission seems to be subsiding into a state of great quiescence, so far as the public are informed.

Improvement in Nail Machines.—Mr. Goose, of Birmingham, claims, for patent, the employment and construction of a spring nipper in addition to nail-making machines, for causing the partially-formed nail to make part of a revolution.

"Impervious Stone."—With reference to an advertisement in our paper of the 10th, headed, "*A M. l'Editeur du Journal* The Builder," we have been called on by the professional advisers of M. Teychenné, to apologise for certain statements therein reflecting on his character. To apologise for statements of which we know nothing is, of course, out of the question. We can simply say, and we do this very readily, that we in no degree participate in making them, and must leave the parties to their remedy against each other.

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